Statement-ll

Forest cover in Various States and UTs

Forest Survey of India (FSI) carries out biennial assessment of forest cover of the country by remote sensing and publishes the results in 'State of Forest Report (SFR)', since 1987. As per the latest SFR (2003), the following States/UTs have shown a decrease in forest cover.

(Area in km^2)

State/UT	2003 Assessment	2001 Assessment	Change
Andhra Pradesh	44,419	44,637	-218
Arunachal Pradesh	68,019	68,045	-26
Bihar	5,558	5,720	-162
Chhattisgarh	55,998	56,448	-450
Gujarat	14,946	15,152	-206
Haryana	1,517	1,754	-237
Himachal Pradesh	14,353	14,360	-7
Karnataka	36,449	36,991	-542
Madhya Pradesh	76,429	77,265	-836
Maharashtra	46,865	47,482	-617
Orissa	48,366	48,838	-472
Punjab	1,580	2,432	-852
Rajasthan	15,826	16,367	-541
Lakshdweep	23	27	-4
TOTAL	430,348	435,518	-5,170

Separation of National Parks Service from Indian Forest Service

1239. SHRI KALRAJ MISHRA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are planning to separate the National Parks Services from Indian Forest Service;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) what are the reasons that compel to bifurcate the Ministry of Environment and Forests;

(d) what are the key points on which Government would focus while formulating the proposal;

(e) on what criterion Government would divide/accommodate the employees working in the Ministry; and

(f) how much time Government would take to complete the proposal?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRINAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) Presently a National Parks Service does not exist. However, proposals are being formulated for creating a National Parks Service as a new All India Service. The details of the proposal shall be worked out in consultation with the State Governments as per the constitutional provisions and provisions of the All India Services Act, 1951.

(c)There is no proposal to bifurcate the Ministry of Environment and Forests. However, to give a focused attention to Forests and Wildlife issues, there is a proposal to create a separate Department of Forests and Wildlife within the Ministry of Environment and Forests.

(d)The key points of focus in the proposal are that:—

(i) The programs/schemes which are being implemented in the field by the State Forest Departments are proposed to be brought in the fold of Forests & Wildlife Department.

(ii) The officers of Indian Forest Service would be considered for senior policy making positions including that of a Secretary in the new Department of Forests and Wildlife.

(e)Standard norms of distribution of staff shall be followed in the division of employees of the Ministry of Environment and Forests between the two Departments.

(f) For creation of a National Parks Service, the finalization of the proposal shall depend on completion of formalities of consultations with the State

Governments and for creation of two separate Departments within the Ministry of Environment and Forests, the proposal is in final stages of formulation.

Storage of wheat

† 1240. SHRI KAMALA KHTAR:
SHRI SHAHID SIDDIQUI:
SHRI MANGANI LAL MANDAL:

Will the Minister of CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) the target fixed for storage of wheat by Government for the year 2006-2007;

(b) the quantity of wheat stored compared to the said target;

(c) the status of storage of wheat;

(d) whether it is a fact that the multinational companies and private companies of the country have stored more quantity of wheat in comparison to that of Government; and

(e) if so, the details thereof, State-wise?

THE MINISTER OF CONSUMER AFFAIRS, FOOD AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION (SHRI SHARAD PAWAR): (a) No target are fixed for storage of wheat by Government for the year 2006-07. However, the estimated procurement targets are fixed by the Government.

The buffer stock quantity norms of wheat fixed by Government w.e.f. 20.4.2005 are as under:—

(In lakh tonnes)

1st January	82.00
1st April	40.00
1st July	171.00
1st October	110.00

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.